

Washington, DC – This week, Congressman Harry Teague continued his work to further government transparency and accountability by voting to support a series of government measures to simplify official documents, archive them, and make more of them accessible online. The votes were scheduled in honor of Sunshine Week, a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

“Making government more open and transparent has been a priority of mine since taking office. I’ve made my appropriations process, as well as all financial documents and reports, open to the public by making them available on my website,” said Congressman Harry Teague. “I want the people of southern New Mexico to know exactly what I do on their behalf and the bills passed by the House this week will only make the process clearer and increase constituent interaction with their government.”

The series of bills passed dealt with the process of writing and archiving official documents online. The reforms also included a bill making it permanent law to require that any unused funds from Members’ offices are deposited into the Treasury at the end of the year to help pay down the deficit. The measures require that government documents are written in plain and accessible language, and that there are standards for preserving emails coming in and out of federal agencies, including the White House.

In addition to fully disclosing lobbying expenditures, contributions and posting office expense reports on his website, Congressman Teague made it his official policy to not seek congressional earmarks that are directed to for-profit entities. Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee announced that it would adopt the same no for-profit earmarks policy.

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